

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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P R 290705Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9376

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T ISLAMABAD 2670

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PASS CINCPAC

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, PK, UR, IN, IR

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH BHUTTO

1. LAST SUNDAY NIGHT AT DINNER WITH THE BHUTTOS HE DREW ME ASIDE TO EXPRESS CONSIDERABLE IRRITATION OVER ACTIVITIES OF NEW SOVIET AMBASSADOR HERE, AZIMOV, AND APPARENT NEW TOUGHER LINE OF THE SOVIETS VIS-A-VIS PAKISTAN. WHAT SEEMED TO IRRITATE HIM MOST WAS THAT THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR WAS OPENLY TAKING THE LINE WITHIN DIPLOMATIC CORPS HERE THAT PAKISTAN WOULD "SUFFER" BECAUSE OF THE RECENT U.S. DECISION TO LIFT THE ARMS EMBARGO IN THE SUBCONTINENT. HE SAID AZIMOV WAS APPARENTLY ALSO PUTTING OUT THE WARNING THAT THE RECENT REVITALIZATION OF CENTO WOULD REDOUND AGAINST BEST INTERESTS OF PAKISTAN.

2. I TOLD BHUTTO THAT AZIMOV HAD CALLED ON ME AND WE HAD MANAGED TO DISAGREE UPON THE MIDDLE EAST, THE INDIAN OCEAN, PERSPECTIVES IN THE SUBCONTINENT, ETC., BUT THAT HE HAD NOT VOICED ANY VEILED THREATS

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AGAINST PAKISTAN. I SAID THAT IN VIEW OF HIS NEWNESS

HERE HE MIGHT BE TRYING TO ESTABLISH A POSITION AND REPUTATION WITHIN THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS. BHUTTO REPLIED THAT HE DID NOT THINK HE WOULD LET HIM GET AWAY WITH IT ALL THAT EASY. HE SAID HE WAS THINKING OF SUMMONING HIM TO AN APPOINTMENT AND TELLING HIM POINT BLANK THAT IF HE HAD ANY WARNINGS TO EXPRESS ABOUT PAKISTAN, OR ANY POLICY PROBLEMS WITH PAKISTAN, THAT HE SHOULD EXPRESS THEM DIRECTLY EITHER TO HIM OR PAKISTAN OFFICIALS AND NOT SPREAD THEM ALL OVER TOWN. BHUTTO SAID HE WOULD HAVE AGHA SHAHI TALK TO ME IN GREATER DETAIL ON THIS MATTER.

3. AGHA SHAHI, JUST BACK FROM SAUDI ARABIA, TOOK THE SUBJECT UP WITH ME YESTERDAY. HE SAID THAT AZIMOV HAD TOLD THE IRANIAN AMBASSADOR THAT IT WAS EXTREMELY DANGEROUS FOR PAKISTAN TO DRAW CLOSER TO THE UNITED STATES. HE HAD ALSO TOLD THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR THAT PAKISTAN WOULD SUFFER FROM ANY NEW REVITALIZATION OF CENTO. IN ADDITION, HE SAID THAT THE SOVIET DCM HAD MADE A BITTER DENUNCIATION OF U.S. POLICY WITH TWO DIRECTORS GENERAL OF THE FOREIGN OFFICE, PARTICULARLY THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO. HE SAID HIS DIRECTORS HAD EXPLAINED THAT UPON EXAMINATION CERTAINLY THE SOVS WOULD HAVE TO AGREE THAT LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO STOOD ON ITS OWN MERITS, ONLY PUTTING PAKISTAN IN THE POSITION OF BEING ABLE TO PURCHASE MILITARY EQUIPMENT AS ANY OTHER FRIEND OF THE U.S. COULD DO, AND HAD POINTED OUT THAT THE EMBARGO HAD BEEN LIFTED FOR INDIA AS WELL AND NOT MERELY FOR PAKISTAN ALONE.

4. SHAHI SAID THAT THEIR PRIMARY IMMEDIATE CONCERN WAS WHETHER THE RUSSIANS AND INDIANS WOULD ATTEMPT TO MAKE SOMETHING BIG IN A PROPAGANDA MANNER OUT OF THEIR ROUTINE MEETING OF THE CENTO MILITARY COMMITTEE HERE IN PAKISTAN NEXT WEEK. HE SAID IF THIS HAPPENED HE HOPED THAT THE PAKISTANIS WOULD NOT BE LEFT ALONE TO BEAR THE BRUNT OF A CONCERTED RUSSIAN-INDIA CAMPAIGN. SHAHI SAID THAT PAKISTAN WAS FIRMLY COMMITTED TO THE SIMLA PROCESS WITH INDIA, AND WAS QUITE EAGER TO SHOW THIS TO EVERYONE CONCERNED BY GOING AHEAD

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QUICKLY WITH AN AIR AGREEMENT WITH INDIA. HE SEEMED CONCERNED THAT THE INDIANS MIGHT CHOOSE TO STALL ON THIS TO COVER UP THEIR ACTIONS BY A NEW PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN AGAINST PAKISTAN. HE SAID HE WAS PLANNING TO TALK TO THE IRANIAN AMBASSADOR TO SEE IF THE SHAH COULD NOT BE HELPFUL IN DELHI. HE SAID THAT THE SHAH HAD TOLD BHUTTO WHILE HE WAS RECENTLY HERE THAT THERE WAS NO REASON WHY IRAN AND PAKISTAN SHOULD

FIND THEMSELVES ON THE DEFENSIVE IN PROCLAIMING THEIR POLICIES TO THE WORLD, AND THE PAKS HOPED HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO DAMPEN THE REACTION IN DELHI THEY APPARENTLY EXPECT IN CONNECTION WITH CENTO ACTIVITIES. HE SEEMED TO FEEL THAT AN EFFORT MIGHT BE MADE TO PORTRAY THE CENTO MEETING AS A SUDDEN DEVELOPMENT IN CONNECTION WITH THE CURRENT STATE OF TENSION IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

5. I TOLD SHAHI THAT THE NEW SOVIET AMBASSADOR HAD TOLD ME THAT THERE WAS GREAT CONCERN IN INDIA OVER THE REVITALIZATION OF CENTO (WHATEVER THIS MAY MEAN, AS I HAVEN'T SEEN THE SIGNS MYSELF) BUT THAT I HAD NOT SEEN THIS REFERRED TO IN EITHER OUR DISPATCHES OR THE INDIAN PRESS. NEVERTHELESS, I TOLD HIM THAT I WOULD REPORT HIS REMARKS AND BE ON THE ALERT FOR SIGNS OF ANY COMBINED SOVIET-INDIAN TENDENCIES IN THIS DIRECTION.  
BYROADE

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED CINCPAC.

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NNN

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